

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device comprising:

a connector (2),

a connecting rod (10) ~~and~~

a polyaxial anchoring screw (3) having:

a spherical head (15)), and

a screw-threaded body (16) having screw threads (17) whose external diameter **d** at the ~~summit~~one end of the screw threads (17) is greater than the external diameter **a** of the spherical head (15), ~~characterized in that each~~

wherein said connector (2) is constituted by~~includes~~ a connecting element (4) comprising:

vertical branches (5, 6) delimiting a U shaped opening (7), ~~and by~~

a locking clip (8) provided with a pressure screw (9) for blocking in the bottom of the U shaped opening the connecting rod (10),

said connecting element (4) being pierced at its middle with a vertical bore (11)

permitting receiving opposite the opening (7)), a blocking device (19) in the form of a

ring (20) having a collar (23) and a screw-threaded socket (21) for emplacement and

positioning of the connector (2) on the spherical head (15) of the anchoring screw (3),

said screw-threaded socket (21) adapted to encircle a substantial portion of said

spherical head (15) and said collar (23) of said ring (20).

2. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~
~~central~~wherein the vertical bore (11) comprises from the bottom of the U shaped opening (7) a
first circular portion (12) and a second screw-threaded portion (13) whose internal diameter is
greater than that of the first portion so as to define an internal shoulder (14).

3. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the internal diameter d_1 of the circular portion (12) of the ~~central~~vertical bore (11) is
less than the external diameter d of the screw-threaded portion (17) or a of the spherical head
(15) of the anchoring screw (3).

4. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the ring (20) comprises a ~~smooth~~-cylindrical portion (22) bordered at one of its ends
by a ~~small~~said collar (23).

5. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the external diameter of the cylindrical portion (22) is ~~slightly~~ less than the internal
diameter d_1 of the portion (12) of the ~~central~~vertical bore (11), whilst the external diameter of the
~~small~~-collar (23) is greater than the internal diameter d_1 .

6. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the socket (21) is ~~constituted by~~includes a cylindrical body having a screw-threaded
external surface (24) and an internally opening bore (25) provided at one of its ends with a
diametric reduction forming a bearing surface (26) of part spherical shape.

7. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the socket (21) comprises on its external surface and in prolongation of the screw-
threaded ~~portion~~ ~~(external surface~~ (24) an unscrew-threaded shoulder (27) and opposite the
shoulder (27) notches (28).

8. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the socket (21) comprises in a longitudinal direction two opposite slots (29, 30)
partially cutting the length of the cylindrical body into two separate and identical portions (31,
32).

9. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein the two separate portions (31, 32) are interconnected at the level of the shoulder (27)
by a bridge (33) delimiting on the one hand a maximum opening before rupture of the slots (29,
30) at the level of the bearing surface (26) of part spherical shape, and on the other hand a
maximum elasticity of the socket (21).